

# **Automated Traffic Safety Cameras in Work Zones**

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Washington State  
Department of Transportation

# Automated Enforcement Background Information

- WSDOT Agency Request Legislation during 2006 and 2007 Sessions.
- Concern about safety of workers and travelers in Washington work zones.
- Legislature authorized Automated Traffic Safety Cameras (ATSC) use in work zones as a pilot program during the 2007 session.

# Background Information/ Legislative Authority

- Photograph the rear of the vehicle and license plate only. The photograph may not reveal the face of the driver or passengers.
- Automated speed enforcement signs had to be posted.
- Notices of infractions had to be mailed to the registered vehicle owner within 14 days of the infraction.
- Report to the legislature regarding the use, public acceptance, outcomes, and other relevant issues. (Delivered last June).



# Enforcement Locations

Locations were selected because of speed concerns and active construction taking place during the pilot phase.

- **I-5 at Rush Road to 13th St (MP 73 vicinity)**
  - 4-miles of widening of I-5 in Lewis County from 2 lanes to 3 and the construction of a new interchange.
  - Automated enforcement began September 15th and ended October 24th, 2008.
  - ADT: *About 50,000*
- **I-5 at Grand Mound to Maytown Widening (MP 88 vicinity)**
  - 8 miles of widening of I-5 from 2 lanes to 3.
  - Automated enforcement began May 4th and ended June 30, 2009.
  - ADT: About 70,000

# Work Zones

- Posted Speed 60 mph
- Enforcement speed 71 mph or greater



# Enforcement

## Photo Radar and Equipment Set-up

American Traffic Solutions provided a 2008 Ford Escape SUV as the host vehicle to mount and operate the photo enforcement equipment.



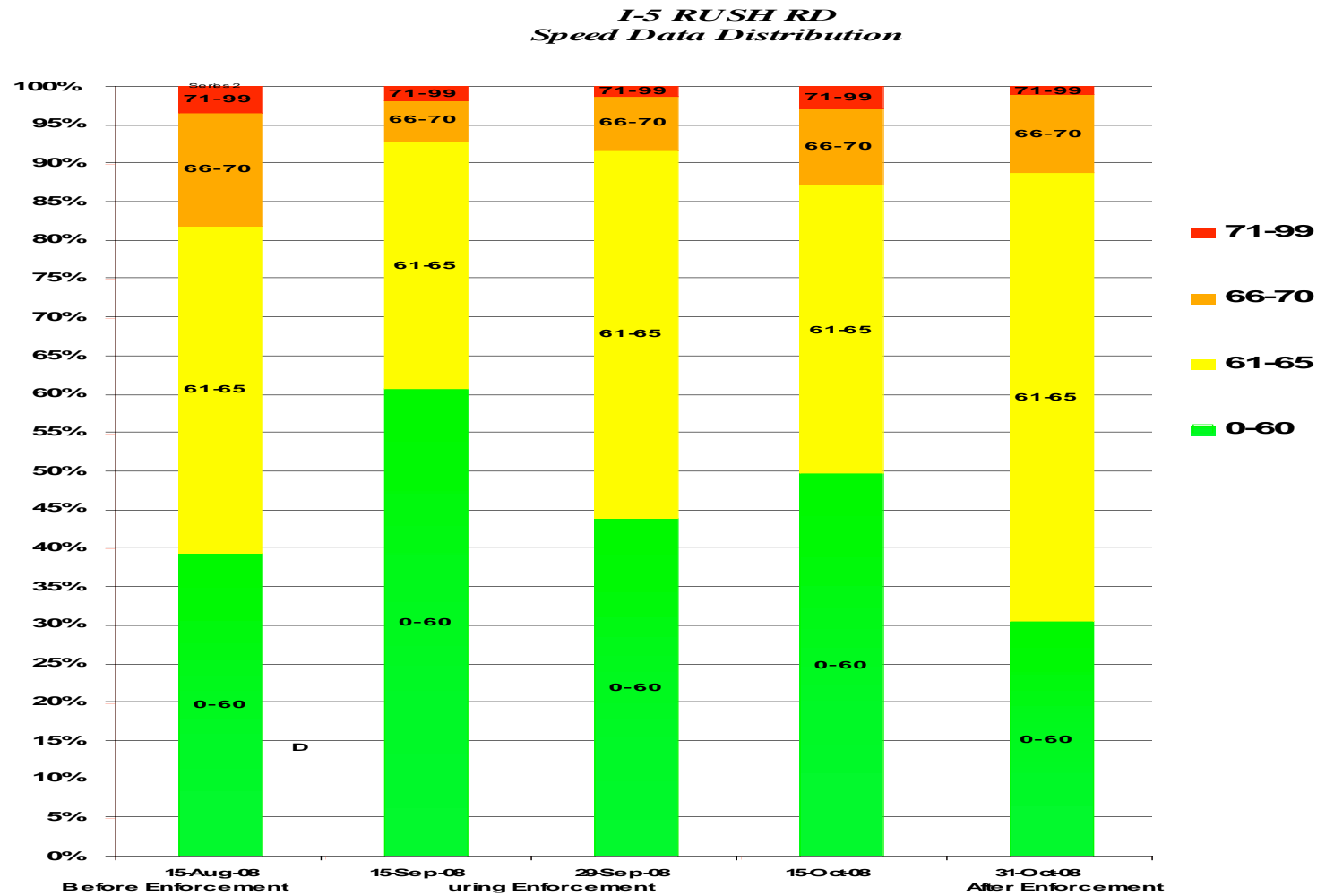
# Automated Enforcement

## Work Zones

- Photos from Rush Road Project
- Barrier to no barrier transition during our automated enforcement pilot
- Similar transition at the Grand Mound project



# Effects on Speeds





# Financial Impacts

## Rush Road Project in Lewis County

(Violations by state)

	Totals	%
WA	276	58%
OR	152	32%
BC	12	3%
CA	20	4%
AK	2	0%
NE	1	0%
NV	1	0%
AZ	2	0%
NM	1	0%
MT	1	0%
TX	1	0%
MN	1	0%
ID	1	0%
MA	1	0%

472

100%

## Infraction Outcomes from Lewis County)

Action	Number	% of all Infractions
Infractions issued	1271	
Infractions paid	1002	78.8%
Paid after hearing	2	0.2%
Dismissals	71	5.6%
Not Paid	196	15.4%

## Revenue from Lewis County Deployment (from Lewis County District Court)

Lewis County	\$108,094
WSP	\$32,948

**Total**

\$141,042

# Public Perception

- Protecting highway workers is very important.
- People who worked in or had family members work in highway construction zones supported the use of automated enforcement. Their hope was that the use of automated enforcement would encourage drivers to reduce their speed when traveling near workers.
- People were concerned about the speeds other drivers traveled. Drivers who didn't speed were glad the cameras were out there to catch those who do speed. Many expressed a similar message of "you don't pay the fine if you don't do the crime".
- Many saw the use of automated enforcement to be a revenue source for the State, not a safety enhancement.
- The cameras are "big brother" like because there is no option to offer an explanation to a camera, as there would be if stopped by a police officer.

# Concluding Thoughts

- The number of vehicles greatly exceeding the speed limit (traveling over 75 mph) was reduced significantly in the I-5 Rush Road Project. There were no speed related collisions during the automated enforcement period.
- The revenue collected appears adequate to cover costs of administering the program but does not represent a “windfall” for WSP or the local District Court. WSDOT collects no percentage of the revenue.
- People opposed to the use of cameras often said they were opposed because there was no way to face their accuser. However, of the 1,271 infractions issued in Lewis County nearly 80% paid their infraction, less than 100 asked for a hearing.

# Questions?

For more information on Automated Speed  
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